

statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

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UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 859

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now move to Calendar No. 154, S. 859, the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

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UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 529

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 117, S. 529, Great Cats and Rare Canids Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

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UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 850

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 270, S. 850, the Shark Conservation Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

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UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 1748

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we move now to consideration of S. 1748, the Southern Sea Otter Recovery & Research Act, as reported by the Commerce Committee; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to speak in morning business and will confine my remarks to the objections I just made to the leader's motions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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SETTING PRIORITIES

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I am simply amazed that, when we are borrowing \$4.2 billion a day from our grandkids—that is what we are borrowing, \$4.2 billion a day—we are going to run a \$1.4 trillion deficit, and we have a unanimous consent request to move to things that spend more money, money we do not have that we are going to borrow from the Chinese or Russians to be able to pay for it, and we are going to spend the money overseas. There is no question that we should try to develop consensus in our body, but the first consensus we should have is the priorities of the problems that are facing this country. The problems that are facing this country are so big and so massive that our attention ought to be focused on those large problems, not on five separate bills that have been proffered for special interest groups. I don't understand the motivations. What I do understand is that the American people get it, even if we do not.

The fact that we are going to make attempts for political purposes to put bills that are not paid for and that will

add to the \$4.2 billion a day that we borrow on the floor when our economy is languishing because we continue to grow the Federal Government, continue to build regulations that affect and diminish the desire for people with capital to invest it in our economy—and we force people out of this country to build their plants and manufacturing facilities because of our regulations and tax codes, I do not understand.

My objections—I will not spend the time exactly outlining my objections to all these bills, but my overall objection is the priorities we are setting in the Senate. We ought to be about creating confidence so people will invest in this country rather than continuing to undermine that confidence with superfluous, well-meaning bills that are put up for political purposes instead of addressing the real problems that are facing our country.

Out of a courtesy to Senator REID and the agreement I just made with him, I will not offer my unanimous consent request at this time, but I will later today after he has had a chance to read them, on the following five bills:

The Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act. Mr. President, 140,000 veterans in this country have lost their second amendment rights. It has never been adjudicated that they were a danger to themselves or anybody else. Yet a bureaucrat somewhere has taken away their second amendment rights. This bill has come out of committee twice. Senator BURR is the lead sponsor on it. We treat veterans as second-class citizens when it comes to their second amendment rights. We ought to pass that. I will ask that later.

The Firearms Fairness and Affordability Act. We make firearms manufacturers pay their taxes every 2 weeks instead of quarterly like every other manufacturer in this country. But we penalize them. We ought to treat them the same as everybody else.

The earmark transparency bill gives one Web site so everybody in America can see where the earmarks are, who offered them, what the basis for them is, whether they were competitively bid. That is something America would like to see.

Then there are two tax cheat bills, for us as Members of Congress and our employees and then other Federal employees.

So I will not offer those unanimous consent requests at this time, but I will later in the day. Again, there are important, big problems in front of this country. We need to be about addressing those rather than special interest favors at this time.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent